



October 2004

In this Issue:

- **Legislative Update**
- **Special Report on the National Trust National Preservation Conference**
- **NPS Advisory Board Report on the Future of National Heritage Areas**
- **Alliance of National Heritage Areas News**
- **This month in the Heritage Areas**
- **Grants and Awards Opportunities**
- **Upcoming conferences and workshops**
- **Publications**

• **Legislative Update**

In September a number of heritage area bills were introduced or passed.

Passed:

-S. 2543 (Craig Thomas, R-WY), to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas in the United States.

-S. 211 (Jeff Bingaman, D-NM), to establish the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

-S. 323 (Mary Landrieu, D-LA), to establish the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, Louisiana, and for other purposes.

-S. 180 (Michael DeWine, R-OH) to establish the National Aviation Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

-H.R. 3257 (Tim Ryan, D-OH), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area.

-H.R. 4683 (James Clyburn, D-SC), to enhance the preservation and interpretation of the Gullah/Geechee cultural heritage, and for other purposes. This bill was also given a hearing and a mark-up in September.

Introduced:

-S. 2836 (George Voinovich, R-OH) - A bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas.

• **Special Report: The 2004 National Trust National Preservation Conference**

-On September 29, the Alliance of National Heritage Areas held a **Heritage Development Institute** workshop entitled *Heritage Areas: The Basics of Getting Started*. Heritage area executive directors and staff and NPS staff provided tools and advice to about

20 participants in the five-hour workshop. For information on the Institute, visit <http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>.



At an awards ceremony held at the historic Palace Theatre in downtown Louisville, the National Trust and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) presented the National Park Service and the Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) with its prestigious National Trust/ACHP Award for Federal Partnerships in Historic Preservation. The two awardees were among 22 national award winners honored by the National Trust at its week-long 2004 National Preservation Conference in Louisville, Ky.

The award was received by NPS Director Fran Mainella and ANHA Chair Augie Carlino, and heritage area directors, NPS superintendents and staff, and Cane River partners joined the Director and Chair on stage. A two-minute video sponsored by Home and Garden Television highlights the partners' national activities as well as those that have occurred between Lackawanna Heritage Valley and Steamtown National Historic Site in Pennsylvania, Cane River Creole National Historical Park and Cane River National Heritage Area in Louisiana, and Essex National Heritage Area and its ten visitors' centers and 18 other National Park Service sites in Massachusetts. For a press release, visit <http://www.nps.gov> and click on "Press."

Following the ceremony, John Nau, Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, hosted an honorary dinner at the Seelbach Hilton for the award recipients. His welcoming remarks graciously recognized each guest present for their contributions to the successes of the ANHA, NPS and their many partners.



The Alliance of National Heritage Areas sponsored a reception to promote the upcoming International Heritage Development Institute Conference, which will be held in Nashville June 4-8, 2005. Heritage area staff and directors mingled with guests to discuss the conference and other heritage area topics. At the reception, a random drawing was held to award over a dozen baskets filled with heritage area information and souvenirs, all

graciously donated by the individual heritage areas, to lucky recipients.

• **Advisory Board Report on the Future of National Heritage Areas**

- **National Park System Advisory Board Partnerships Committee**—the Partnerships Committee of the National Park Service Advisory Board held its first full meeting in the Blackstone River Valley on September 7-8. Members toured the National Heritage Corridor

and were hosted by Commission members as they learned about the Corridor and its activities and partnership success stories. The tour was followed by a meeting to review topics and issues and identify information needs as they relate to evaluating the success of the national heritage area program as a conservation strategy and for advice on how the National Park Service should best manage this initiative in the future. The Committee will make recommendations to the Advisory Board in advance of a report on the *Future of the National Heritage Areas*, to be completed in Summer 2005. The Committee will meet again in December in the Cane River National Heritage Area.

- **Alliance of National Heritage Areas news**

-Natalie Gelb Solfanelli has officially begun as the new executive director of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley. Mrs. Solfanelli has long been involved in community affairs, including the LHVA Board and the LHVA Educational Alliance. She currently serves as Vice President of Scranton Tomorrow, a community based leadership organization, as well as Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Boards of Temple Hesed, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen, the President's Advisory Council of Keystone College, and the Economic Development Council of Lackawanna County. The mother of three adult children, Natalie is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Maryland, and resides in Moosic, Pennsylvania with her husband, Atty. Joseph R. Solfanelli. Natalie, a warm welcome to the wonderful world of national heritage areas!

- **This Month in the Heritage Areas**

-“GROUP ENVISIONS PACKARD AS ANCHOR FOR AUTO HERITAGE”-- Ernie Quintana, regional director for the National Park Service Midwest region, toured the former Packard Proving Grounds in Shelby Township, then headed south on Van Dyke to visit the new General Motors Heritage Center in Sterling Heights and the GM Technical Center in Warren. The visit was part of an effort by Quintana to get a feel for the efforts of groups and agencies that make up the MotorCities National Heritage Area, an umbrella organization that promotes dozens of southeast Michigan sites that preserve or enhance the area's automotive history and connections. To read the story, visit:

http://www.macombdaily.com/stories/090204/loc_packard001.shtml

-The Schuylkill River NHA recently completed an Outdoor Recreation Businesses Study to inventory recreation services in the region, and to identify opportunities for new businesses. The findings concluded that the NHA can support a number of new outfitters, tourism support services and even a shopping mall to serve residents and increasing numbers of recreational tourists. The NHA has recently contracted with St. Mary's College to complete an Ethnographic Study to inventory the region's ethnic resources and recommend how to sustain them. During the year-long study, ethnographers will live in the river communities and interact with residents as they collect information. For more on these two studies visit <http://www.schuylkill> http://www.schuylkillriver.org/studies_reports/ or contact ckeagerise@schuylkillriver.org.

The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Summit will bring together community leaders, historians, business leaders, elected officials, educators and other interested citizens on October 4 to highlight the region's historical legacy and participate in a

visioning session on the future of the region. The one-day summit is chaired by Representative Hinchey, who will make opening and closing remarks. Carmella Mantello, Director of the Hudson River Valley NHA, Paul Bray, LLC and member of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and Allen Saches, Executive Director of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor will share initiatives and lessons from other heritage areas. After lunch, two afternoon sessions will encourage participants to envision the region's future and develop a plan to effectively achieve that vision. For more information, visit www.publicforuminstitute.org.

● Grants and Awards Opportunities

-The History Channel is proud to announce the first year of its Save Our History National Grant Program. This year, \$250,000 in grants will be awarded to historical organizations that partner with educators on unique, rewarding projects that help students learn about and appreciate the history of their local communities.

The grants program is an extension of the Save Our History philanthropic initiative and demonstrates The History Channel commitment to inspiring, motivating and educating local communities on the importance of preserving the past. Through December 3, historical societies, preservation organizations, museums, historic sites, and other history organizations that partner with schools on Save Our History projects can apply for Save Our History grants. The History Channel will award grants between \$1,000 and \$10,000. Grant applications can be found and submitted online at <http://www.saveourhistory.com/>.

● Upcoming Conferences and workshops

-Visit the **Heritage Development Institute** website for course descriptions and registration information: <http://www.heritagedevelopmentinstitute.org>. Courses were recently held in Butte and Virginia City, Montana and at the National Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference.

-2004 ARC Fall Conference--*Building on Appalachia's Assets* will show how communities can identify and leverage natural assets and local heritage to revitalize their economies. The program will demonstrate that scenic mountains, rivers, forests, music, and crafts can be leveraged to build a strong and sustainable "asset-based" economy, bringing jobs and prosperity to rural communities while preserving their character. The 2004 ARC Fall Conference features 10 concurrent sessions focusing on Promoting Creative Economies, Adding Value to Natural Resources, Transforming Liabilities into Assets, and Financing Asset-Based Development.

Brenda Barrett, National Coordinator of Heritage Areas will discuss the strategies used by National Heritage Areas, such as tourism and other resource-based development tools, during a panel discussion alongside other economic development experts. State and local economic, community, and tourism development officials, chamber of commerce staff, and business and community leaders are encouraged to attend. For more information, visit www.arcfallconference.com or register on-site.

-2005 International Heritage Development Conference: June 5-8, 2005, Nashville, TN: sponsored by the Alliance of National Heritage areas and hosted by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Field trips, mobile workshops, evening events and educational



sessions will allow participants to experience Southern culture while learning about national and international trends in preserving and celebrating distinctive landscapes. For more information, visit the conference website: <http://www.ihdc2005.org>.

-2005 George Wright Society Conference: March 14-18, 2005. Formerly geared toward academics and National Park Service employees, this biennial conference is now attracting attendees from other disciplines and private and public sectors. This year's conference addresses the linkages between nature and culture, and highlights current hot topics such as education and interpretation and social justice. Abstracts for papers, sessions, workshops, field trips, and side meetings must be received by October 8, 2004. Visit <http://www.georgewright.org/2005.html>.

-2005 Society for Applied Anthropology Conference: All abstracts must be received by October 15, 2004. Visit <http://www.sfaa.net/sfaa2005/2005instruct.html>.

- **Publications**

-If you want to keep up with announcements, events and news from the National Park Service and related cultural resource agencies and organizations, visit the monthly *Heritage News*, published by the NPS National Center for Cultural Resources. There are often articles and links to items of interest to heritage area programs. Visit <http://heritagenews.cr.nps.gov/index/Index.cfm> to view this month's News and to subscribe.

- **For more information on the heritage areas, visit our [website](#).**

- Reach the editors at brenda_barrett@nps.gov or suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov
- Past issues available at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas/rep/bb.htm>
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to suzanne_copping@contractor.nps.gov